Maharashtra, particularly, in Vidarbha, only one district has been declared, i.e. Gadchiroli.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: That is the next question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Karan Singh.

DR. KARAN SINGH: Sir, I did not want to put any question.

I did not raise my hand on this question.

Expansion of SSIs in Vidarbha Region of Maharashtra

*402. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps for the expansion of Small Scale Industries in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Small Scale Industries Corporation is supplying machinery to the entrepreneurs on hire purchase basis;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government have noticed any increase in the number of Small Scale Industries in the Vidarbha region; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Government sets out the policy framework for promotion and development of small scale industries. It also renders certain support services by way of consultancy, technical services, creation of infrastructure, training and entrepreneurship development etc. Small Industries Service Institute, Nagpur (a field office of the Small Industry Development Organisation) provides training, technical consultancy and other services to the existing and prospective entrepreneurs in the region. Assistance has been provided for setting up a sub-Contracting Exchange through Non-Governmental Organisation in Vidarbha region. One Integrated Infrastructure Development Centre was sanctioned by the Government in September, 1994 in Yeotmal district under the scheme of IID. The Government of Maharashtra is providing incentives by way of Sales Tax exemption, refund of octroi/entry tax, refund of electricity duty, concession in capital cost of power supply and contribution towards feasibility studies. Through National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) export of Rs. 1 crore was made from Vidarbha region for 'cable and conductors' to Nigeria during 1996-97. NSIC also provided raw-material assistance of Rs. 58 crores in Vidarbha región during the last three years. The NSIC has established a sub-office in Nagpur in 1996. The Small Industries Development Bank of India has sanctioned and disbursed cumulative assistance to the tune of Rs. 204.4 crores and Rs. 149.9 crores respectively in the Vidarbha region to 5715 units during the period 1990-97.

(c) and (d) The National Small Industries Corporation provides machinery on hire purchase, equipments on lease, marketing assistance etc. to small scale units. So far a total of 28,275 SSI units have been assisted under hire purchase by the NSIC in the country.

(e) and (f) yes, Sir. The cumulative number of SSI units registered in the Vidarbha region for the years 1993, 1994, 1995 and 1996 (provisional) are 9244, 10586, 12549 and 14346 respectively.

MISS SAROJ KHAPARADE: Sir, a very lengthy statement has been given by the hon. Minister. However, there are a few questions which I would like to put to the hon. Minister.

I am sure the hon. Minister is aware that the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra is one of the most backward regions in the State; economically as well as industrially. There are some districts in the region which do not have even a single or medium industry. The position in regard to agriculture too is not very encouraging or impressive. The small-scale sector is the only hope for this backward region. But the SSI units are also very few in this region.

As per the figures given by your Ministry itself, in 1996, there were 14,346 SSI units in the whole of Vidarbha. In my opinion, the major hurdle for the SSI sector is the shortage of working capital. Banks do not give credit so easily. They always ask for collateral security.

Though the Small Industries Development Bank of India is providing some capital, the other banks are not giving any assistance.

Therefore, my first question to the hon. Minister is: what is the Ministry of Industry doing to persuade the banking sector to provide loans on easy terms to the SSI units in Vidarbha, without insisting on any collateral security from the SSI sector, and take steps to remove the inspector-raj so that more and more SSI units come up in that region, providing the much desired employment to the youth of the region, leading, ultimately, to the economic growth of the region?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, As I have given it in the main reply, there are many industries in the Vidarbha region. As the hon. Member has said, the position is not satisfactory. There is a lot of scope for improvement.

Sir, at present there are 14,346 registered small-scale industries in the Vidarbha region. According to the Second Census, the Vidarbha region accounted for 15.8 per cent of units, 13.9 per cent of employment, 10.2 per cent of investment in plant and machinery, 11.3 per cent of industrial investment, 11.7 per cent of capacity and 10.3 per cent of production in the State of Maharashtra.

The hon. Member has mentioned about credit availability. It is not a problem only in Vidarbha but it is a problem for the small-scale sector as a whole. The Nair Committee has recommended that 20 per cent of the working capital should be earmarked for the SSI. But, I am very sorry to say that banks are shy to lend money to the SSI sector. Not only that, they are charging by way of insurance cover, guarantee fees and in like manner, more interests also.

Sir, we have taken up this matter. I have had a meeting with all the Reserve Bank officials and all the State Ministers. During the last seven months, the Secretary has taken a meeting with banks on this issue in August, 1996. I have taken a meeting with the concerned Departments and banks. I again took a meeting with the State Industry Ministers. So, I am pursuing the matter with the Finance Ministry and also with the Reserve Bank. I agree with the hon. Member. We share her anxiety. We will do our best in the matter.

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Sir, my second supplementary is this. Recently, the Government has dereserved some articles from those reserved for exclusive manufacture by the SSI sector. It has hiked the investment ceilling in machinery etc. up to Rs. 3 crores. Since the Maharashtra State a whole has many big industries, don't you think that the SSI sector will be indirectly taken over by the big units to avail themselves of the facilities and concessions available to the SSI sector, that this sector will become a tool in the hands of the big industries and that this sector will ultimately disappear? The SSI sector in Maharashtra has requested the Government to reconsider this decision through big advertisements in local newspapers. If so, does the Government propose to review this decision on dereservation of some articles and on raising the investment ceiling to Rs. 3 crores to save the SSI sector in Vidarbha and, in fact, throughout the country? If not, what is the reason?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, I would like to assure the hon. lady Member—she is a very senior Member—I think, no Government can allow small-scale industries to be gobbled up by bigger fish, bigger industries.

Ninety-five per cent of units in the country are in the SSI sector. In fact, there are about 29 lakh registered small-scale industries. The non-SSI units are only 33,000. It is not possible. We will not allow it.

Sir, regarding raising the ceiling to the extent of Rs. 3 crores, I am sorry, the hon. Member is not aware of it. We have done it. We have raised the ceiling from Rs. 60 lakhs to Rs. 3 crores. We have laid the information on the Table of the House.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: you should not have done that. That is her point.

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: you should not have done it.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: I am sorry. There was a debate in the Lok Sabha, and hon. Members asked it to be raised to Rs. 5 crores.

The Standing Committee attached to the Ministry of Industry recommended for raising it to around Rs. 2 crores. Some people wanted it to be raised to Rs. 5 crores. The previous Government, when hon. Shri Karunakaranji was the Industry Minister, had appointed an experts committee with Dr. Abid Hussain as its Chairman.

That Committee has also recommended that it should be raised to Rs. 3 crores. Therefore, we have raised the limit to Rs. 3 crores. The decision has been published in the gazette and it will come into effect after 30 days.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I would like to know whether the Government has a comprehensive perception on how to help the S.S.I. sector. The present Budget has seen cuts on import duties, which will affect the manufacturing in the S S.I. sector. Moreover, the credit facilities given to these sector are not at par with the external credit. So, they do not have level playing fields and they cannot hope to compete with the prices that will be fixed subsequently as a fall-out of these concessions. Sir, I appreciate his fervour and all the lovely zeal and idealism that the Hon. Minister is showing, but the relief spells something else. So, I would like to know whether he has studied the effects of the present Budget concessions that have been given by way of cuts on import duties on various goods and whether he has quantified these factors.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, the small-scale sector enjoys certain excise duty concessions. Of course, there is some fall-out also. We have written a detailed letter to the Finance Minister based on several representations that we received from the S.S.I. associations regarding the adverse implications of the withdrawal of MODVAT credit facilities from the S.S.I. units. We have asked the Finance Ministry to restore the MODVAT credit on duties paid on inputs used in or for the manufacture of specified goods for clearance ranging from Rs. 3 lakhs to Rs. 100 lakhs alongwith concessional rate of excise duty. I think the Finance Ministry will consider it when the Finance Bill is considered in this House and in that House. Of course, I have no idea about it, but we have strongly expressed our opinion on that. All the S.S.I. units have also represented on the matter.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: In the meantime a wrong message has gone out and these units have started panicking.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: The old system will prevail until the Finance Bill is passed.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Sir, the question is about the small-scale industries in Vidarbha. There are two districts in Vidarbha. One is Garhchiroli. It is entirely a tribal district where Adim Adivasis live. Another is Vidarbha district. With respect to these two districts, the Government of India has decided to give special attention for the last more than 20 years. For Vidarbha district, a separate Plan, known as the Gandhi Plan, has been made, because it is the Gandhi district. There development of small-scale industries on Gandhian lines was to be taken up. I would like to know the results of these Plans that have been going on there for the last 20 years. Have small-scale industries come up on Gandhian lines in the Vidarbha district? Have these industries come up in Garhchiroli district? Actually, all the schemes there are on paper. Nothing can be done in the Garhchiroli district, because everywhere the Forest Conservation Act comes into the picture. People cannot get a square foot of land there. So, I would like to know what will be done with respect to the development of small-scale industries in the Garhchiroli district. I would also like to know what has happened to the Vidarbha district, which was to be developed as per the Gandhian Plan. Are the S.S.I. industries being developed under the Vidarbha Plan?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: I share the anxiety of the hon. Member. In Garhchiroli, in fact, the number of small-scale units are increasing. In 1993, there were 109 industries. In 1994, the number increased to 144 units. In 1995, it was 190. Up to 30th September, 1996, the number of units has gone up to 208.

Regarding the Vidarbha district, in 1993 the number of units was 437. In 1994, it increased to 486. Then it increased to 490. Up to 30th September, 1996, the number of these units has increased to 551.

He also asked about the Gandhi Plan. The hon. Member regretted that for the last 20 years nothing has happened. I would like to inform him that I have been in this Ministry for the last 10 months only. I will look into it and I will do my best. I assure the hon. Member that I will look into it and will get in touch with him regarding its progress. I will expedite the matter.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Sir, I am not blaming the hon. Minister. The Minister gave us these statistics. I am worried about the slow progress. The pace of growth is 400, 419, 425 whereas it should have been in thousands. In the case of Gadchiroli it is 109, 120, 144. This is because of certain specific problems. Would you please address yourself to these problems?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: I assure the hon. Member, I will.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Shinde. The question is about Vidarbha.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE : Sir, I thought that it was regarding planning and the Planning Commission and the Planning Ministry should know about "no-industry district" and that is why I was addressing my question to the Planning Ministry. I am sorry for it. Now, I would switch over to the Industry Ministry. Sir, the Government of India have some time back announced about the "no-industry districts." The Government of India have announced 12 or 15 "no-industry districts" for the country. So, these announced districts are the crippled children of the Government. Whatever development has taken place in Gadchiroli is because of the incentives provided by the Government of Maharashtra. The Ministry of Industry has set up a regional office in Vidarbha. It has been fuctioning for the last one year. So, it is obligatory on the part of the Government of India to bring up these districts on the map of developed districts. This assurance was given by the Government of India. So, it is the duty of the Government of India to see to it that it is done. Regarding Vidarbha area, my colleague has already pointed out about the problem of environment. Leaving it aside, what efforts have been made by the Government of India to improve it? Due to the efforts of the Government of Maharashtra, we have got some small-scale industries there. But what specific efforts have been made by the Government of India to bring industries to no-industry districts such as Gadchiroli? Thank you.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think that the 'no-industry district' plan has been given up. The Ministry of Finance has appointed a committee to identify backward districts. They have identified the criteria. Another committee has been appointed to use the criteria and identify the districts. I think recently that Committee has given its report and it is being examined by the Finance Ministry. In the meanwhile, I would like to inform the hon. Member what we have done in respect of Vidarbha area. One integrated infrastructure development centre was sanctioned by the Government of India in September, 1994 in Yeotmal district. We have released Rs. 1,14,00,000 as grants. It is a project of Rs. 5 crores. It is coming up. Then, through the national Small Industries Corporation, an export of Rs. 1 crore was made from Vidarbha region to Cable and Conductors, Nigeria.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: You have already mentioned that in your reply.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: I have already mentioned these things in my detailed reply given to the hon. lady Member.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Sir, my question is regarding poor tribals. Some time back we assured them that something would be done. What are they getting? Therefore, it is obligatory on the part of the Government of India to bring these people on a par with others. Therefore, I appeal to the hon. Minister to personally look into such underdeveloped and backward areas of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and do something. He can leave aside Scheduled Caste areas. Some seven years back they were promised that their areas would have some industries. Where would these youngsters go? They would beg either at the doors of the Government of India or at the doors of the Government of Maharashtra. So, when the Government of India have assured them something sometime back, I think the Minister can insist on this committee to give more

weightage to Gadchiroli for development of industries.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: I understand the anger of the hon. Member because backwardness is the biggest problem staring at our face. Probably because he could not show his anger to the Planning Minister, he is showing it to me. Anyhow I understood the matter and I will definitely devote more time to this problem.

*403. *[The Questioner (Shri Amar Singh) was absent for answer vide col. 29 infra.]*

Export of coal

*404. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:†
SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of coal excavated from different coal mines during each of the preceding three years;

(b) whether any part of this had been exported;

(c) if so, details of the quantity thereof and foreign exchange earned thereby; and

(d) the countries to which the coal was exported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Shiv Charan Singh.

Statement

(a) The details of coal production from the mines of Coal India Ltd. (CIL) Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. (SCCL) and captive collieries during the last three years are as under:-

(million tonnes)

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (Provisional)
CIL	223.07	237.28	250.65
SCCL	25.65	26.77	28.73
CAPTIVE COLLIERIES (TISCO, IISCO & DVC)	5.01	6.08	6.28
TOTAL	253.73	270.13	285.66

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The quantity of coal exported by Coal India Limited and foreign exchange earned during the last three years are as under:

(Figs. in 000 tonnes)

Year	Quantity exported	Foreign exchange earned
1994-95	111.9	US$ 2.14 Million
1995-96	92.0	US$ 1.44 Million
1996-97	126.8	US$ 1.74 Million

Export to Nepal and Bhutan is made in Indian Rupees.

(d) Coal is exported only to Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan.